

# *Great Feast Days*

## *Of the Holy Orthodox Church*

The following Feast Days should be attended by all Orthodox Christians whenever possible. These are great highlights in the story of our salvation that we are privileged to experience in the eternal present of the kingdom of God through the holy services of the Church. Note: Services begin on the eve of the Feast Day – indicated by ( ).

The ecclesiastical calendar begins on September 1. Pre-eminent among all festivals is Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, which stands in a class by itself. Next in importance come the Twelve Great Feasts, usually reckoned as follows:

<b>September (7)-8:</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Mother of God</b>
<b>September (13)-14:</b>	<b>The Elevation of the Precious &amp; Life-giving Cross</b>
<b>November (13)-14:</b>	<b>Holy Apostle Philip</b>
<b>November (20)-21:</b>	<b>The Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple</b>
<b>December (24)-25:</b>	<b>The Nativity of Christ (Christmas)</b>
<b>January (5)-6:</b>	<b>The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan (Theophany)</b>
<b>February (1)-2:</b>	<b>The Meeting (Presentation) of Our Lord in the Temple</b>
<b>March (24)-25:</b>	<b>The Annunciation of the Mother of God</b>
<b>one week before Pascha:</b>	<b>The Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)</b>
<b>40 days after Pascha:</b>	<b>The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b>
<b>50 days after Pascha:</b>	<b>Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)</b>
<b>August (5)-6:</b>	<b>The Transfiguration of Christ</b>
<b>August (14)-15:</b>	<b>The Falling Asleep of the Mother of God (the Dormition)</b>

Thus three of the Twelve Great Feasts depend on the date of Pascha and are “movable; the rest are “fixed.” Seven are feasts of the Lord, and five are feasts of the Mother of God.\*

There are also a large number of other festivals, of varying importance. Among the more prominent are:

<b>January 1:</b>	<b>The Circumcision of Christ</b>
<b>June 29:</b>	<b>St. Peter and St. Paul</b>
<b>December 6:</b>	<b>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</b>
<b>First Sunday after Pentecost:</b>	<b>All Saints</b>

\*The Meeting (February 2) is sometimes reckoned as a feast of the Lord, in which case there are eight feasts of the Lord, and four of the Mother of God.